



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

DECEMBER '96/JANUARY '97

REINVENTING ROMANCE

Romance is in the air for New York Spring/Summer, but that does not mean all frills. Sleek and sexy with a '90s sensibility, yet feminine, is the pervasive theme: these clothes, made to be worn in the city or in the country, show off the body and will provide ease of movement. The silhouette is lean and long with body-hugging fabrics that often resemble dance or swimwear.

At **CALVIN KLEIN**, stretch infuses fine viscose jersey, wool, poplin, and leather, creating a close fit and slim lines. T-shirts, sometimes layered and crunched up exposing a new bit of color across the middle, top slim skirts that extend to the ankle. Lightweight jackets, in wool chiffon, nylon organza or paper taffeta, float over the

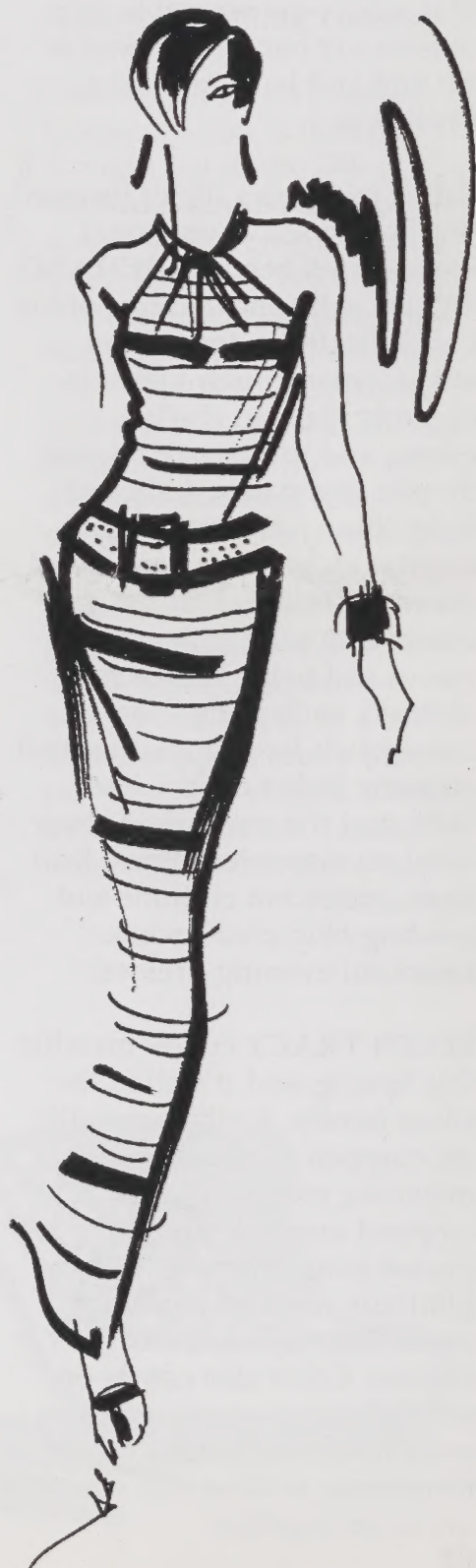
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ACCESSORIES – ALIVE AND WELL

Although most designers continued to play down the use of accessories in their runway shows, there were enough flashes of wit and newsworthy items to satisfy even the most jaded observer. More often than not, some of the best and brightest ideas surfaced outside the tents.

The **ENRICO COVERI** woman is a seductive femme fatale. After dark she shines in bright sequins or multicolored floral chiffon slip dresses. These are often worn with colorful patent or gold kid high heeled sandals and bracelets and collars fashioned of gold metal braid. **GHOST** offers some of the loveliest bias dresses this side of Vionnet. Layered transparencies of crepe and georgette, in pale tints, are worn singly or in multiples with sculptural free form bracelets (**ERICKSON BEAMON**). **TROA** brings a

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body and pair with tapered pants as suiting pieces.

CYNTHIA STEFFE creates a collection with shapes that are soft and supple. Fluid double-jersey jackets and tunics glide over narrow pants. T-shirts are in triple-layer chiffon jersey, giving an element of sheerness that is sexy yet wearable. Slip dresses are hand crocheted or rib knit and have matching cardigans.

Fabric takes on a life of its own this Spring as conventional ideas are left behind. **RICHARD TYLER**, who showed one of his best collections, focuses on wispy, see-through pieces in organdy, gazaar, chiffon, gauze, and tulle working over dresses and pants. Although light, these jackets are structured with plackets, lapels and seaming. Textural interest comes into play with many pieces and helps keep things covered, such as the black cross-hatch lace single-breasted cutaway jacket over A-line skirt, and the navy plaid sheer wool asymmetrical dress. Knit laces, iridescent chiffons and beading help create some knockout evening dresses.

ELLEN TRACY craves metallic this Spring, and it's all in the silver family. A silver metallic rib cropped cardigan is over a matching metallic/Lycra cropped camisole and hip pocket pant. Other knits in platinum metallic pair with mesh/lace tops and silk dresses. Color also comes on strong here as geranium pairs with silver, and hues such as chartreuse, willow and scarlet are worn together.

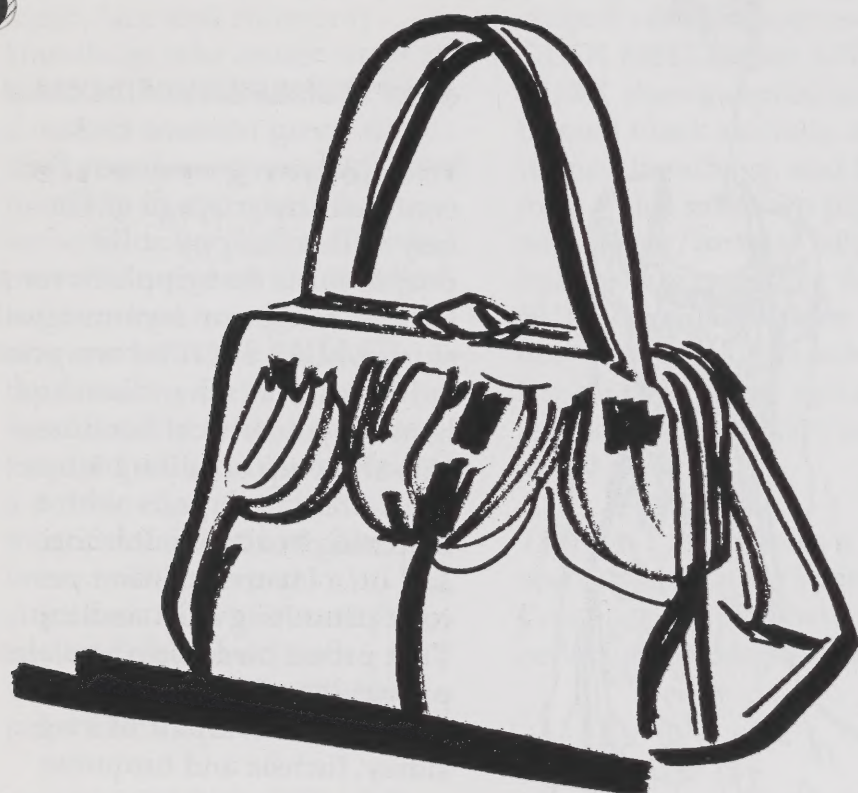


Color truly runs the gamut with no single shade "the color" of the season. The most surprising and freshest approach to color for Spring is the use of autumnal shades. For a new look at Spring, and perhaps as the carry-through of brown for Fall, rich reds, oranges and greens join the color spectrum

Inspired by Africa, **RALPH LAUREN** uses rich earthy tones throughout his collection. Linen/Lycra knit dresses are in bias cut stripes with sexy sculptural necklines. Red and black plaid is used for similar versions in stretch silk. Most dramatic — the tribal-inspired, hand painted columns in brown, red, and black silk/Lycra.

At **BILL BLASS**, predominant colors are black, navy and white with occasional pastels. The real interest appears in a group he calls autumn-toned, when an iridescent lace cami-sole combines with a floral linen jacket and plaid pants, all in muted browns. A one-shoulder tunic and halter dress are also in this group.

Fishtails, asymmetric and bias cuts prevail with mixed success. **DONNA KARAN** traveled East to Bali, Thailand, and Cambodia for inspiration resulting in asymmetric designs with a twist. Dresses are wrapped, twisted, and tied in drapable fabrics, such as sheer rayon jersey and silk/viscose



CAROLINA HERRERA

jersey shirt and trouser is accented with a lariat necklace of neutral semiprecious beads (**DAYNE DUVALL, TARA JEWELS**). For a fresh take on the chain handled bag, Howard offers a newer version in an A-frame shape. Hers comes in lime with white/ivory/lime plastic chain links (**ADRIANA CARAS at MOORE COLLECTIONS**).

One of the season's hottest footwear looks is the slide. Straight out of the '70s is **GEMMA KAHNG's** black mesh version on a natural wood platform. It's worn with a white taffeta obi jacket and wide leg pants. Leading this retro revival is **CANDIES**, with a fabulous twist on their classic slide. It's newly updated in shades of lime, tangerine, cherry, plus metallic gold, gingham checks, and the ultimate version — floral embroidered satin with carved wood heels, designed by **VIVIENNE TAM**. In a collection that's part Brady Bunch part Charlie's Angels, **DIESEL** utilizes the classic Candies beige slide, adds sheer lacy

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global approach to Spring, balancing structured silhouettes with feminine shapes in beautiful color combinations. In the Mediterranean group, amber satin pilgrim buckled sling backs are worn with silk evening separates and dresses. L'Aurore pink silk/viscose pieces evoke a Parisian sunset because each outfit is worn with flirty veiled black floral cocktail hats (**LOLA**). In a collection that is more subdued than usual, **OSCAR DE LA RENTA** saves the best for late day. A very pretty beige silk cylindrical clutch with wrist strap and tassel is shown with a champagne colored embroidered dress. One jewelry designer striking back against minimalism is **STEPHEN DWECK**, with a collection exclusively for **ESCADA ACCESSOIRES**. His retro bakelite group employs classic materials such as gold, silver, amber, etc. He carves Escada's

signature motif, the marguerite flower, into resin beads, brooches and earrings. **JANET HOWARD** proves that a minimal amount of jewelry can provide maximum impact. With her stretch halter sheath in aqua stripes, a narrow silver coiled band is worn high on the arm, and a chocolate matte



CANDIES

WHIMSICAL WEARABLES.

Spring is filled with a palette that ranges from zingy brights to face powder pales, in styles that are not only wearable, but also incorporate a soupçon of tongue-in-chic whimsy.

The Queen of Caprice, **ANNA SUI**, translates her flights of fancy into thematic groupings that range from seventies-like leather and Indian prints to a lingerie-inspired selection that pays tribute to Frederick's of Hollywood. Included in the latter is a Valentine of a slip dress where the bust comprises two hearts. Also in the group are pretty lace trimmed lime or violet empire line dresses and a beaded teddy with lace baby doll!

Sui goes West with an UltraSuede jacket and slim, long, side-slit skirt — both trimmed with fringing, a la Annie Oakley; and with a cute little sleeveless dress in blue polka dots, complete with frill at the neckline and hem. In her denim printed tulle and embroidered organdy group of white and blue solids and prints, there's an ultra feminine crochet wrap bolero that tops a long slim print dress — both in white. A floaty blue floral chiffon, fit 'n' flare, tea length dress, worn with a blue crocheted sweater, looks fresh and innocent, until we see the



deep 'V' at the back of the dress!

When the sun goes down, Sui continues her voyage of fantasy with a strappy solid purple tunic that ripples over a long purple print asymmetrical skirt; while a short brown print teddy features a handkerchief hem. Asymmetrical hemlines also show up on a long taupe print dress, that pairs with a matching beaded halter top, and on a layered chiffon peacock print long skirt and top. That proud bird's feathers also provide the dramatic beaded adornment on a pair of long slinky, fuchsia and turquoise gowns.

TODD OLDHAM tones down his prints this season and gives us one of his best collections. His whimsical interpretations of menswear fabrics, especially, have been given a feminine aura with a twist. For instance, a white pique tuxedo bib halter combined with a gray lightweight wool wrap skirt is enough to stop any business meeting in its tracks! Then, punctuating a smart navy pantsuit with long fitted jacket is a dazzling bronze beaded bustier. Denim gets the subtle peek-a-boo treatment in a hipster pant or a slim skirt. Both are notched at their low slung waistline, and pair with a matching crop jacket, accented by gold buttons, also notched at the waist. Notching again becomes a signature on a black satin crop top and tap pants.

"ACCESSORIES. . ." continued from page 3

blue knee socks, and puts it together with a group in pastel mesh, lace and chambray.

Handbags take center stage at **CAROLINA HERRERA**. With a ruffled emerald green dress she proposes carrying a framed handbag in a bright silk screened tulip design. This is part of a range of top handled bags crafted from pure silk scarves. **NICOLE MILLER** taps into the tortoise trend, most notably with a tortoise handled white bucket tote and a double chain handled tortoise print fabric tote. The latter matches a print shirtdress. A white stretch twill suit is shown with **OMBELINE'S** chic tortoise print block heeled Mary Janes.

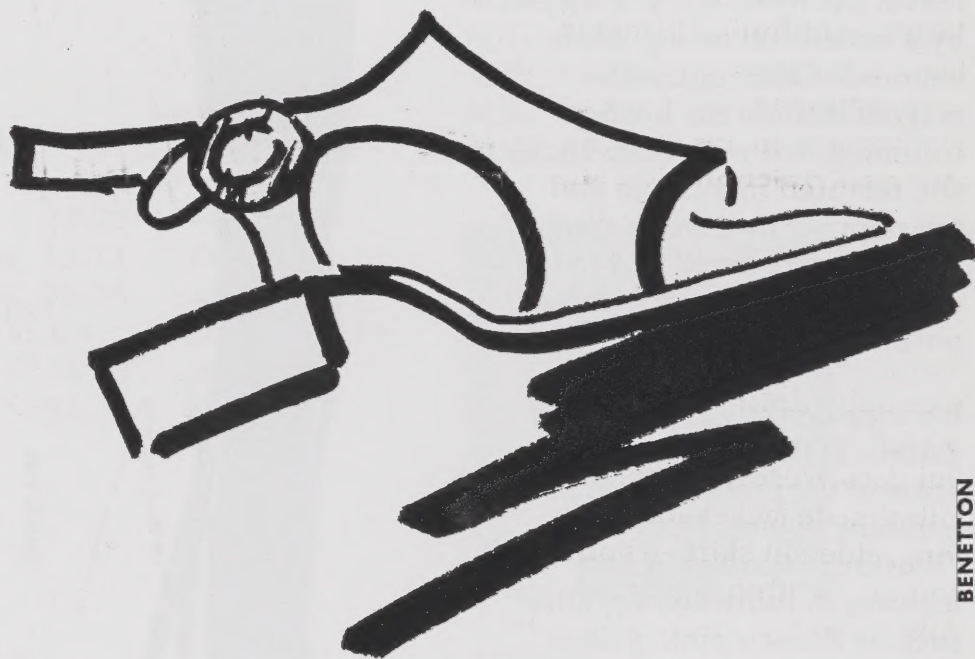
At **MOSCHINO CHEAP & CHIC**, the outstanding accessories are Dalmatian patterned tights, particularly effective when worn with a tailored green luncheon suit. **DKNY** likes a neutral palette for her hosiery. Rib, pointelle and cable stretch treatments come in shades of pale chino, malt brown, rye and flour. **DONNA KARAN's** pale beach pebble tints surface in organza net, spiral faggoting, fishnet and asymmetrical tights and knee highs. **E.G. SMITH** prefers a colorful approach with vibrant flower patterned anklets, zebra striped trouser socks and Missoni inspired space dye patterned tights. **HOT SOX** has color on the mind. Exciting groups include Mod Squad, with rainbow striped, groove cube, and space dyed trouser socks in offbeat colors. Also key are net cotton tights in neutral shades of mahogany, natural, black and white. **RALPH LAUREN** sticks to a

preppy theme with updated basics such as Madras plaids, color blocked, and tennis striped cable trouser socks. **GLEN MILLER** for **ANN TURK** shows sophisticated framed black satchels, tortoise framed handbags, and flap over styles in brown pigskin with silver/tortoise pilgrim buckle hardware. For **ANNA SUI**, he pairs an amber framed brown snakeskin clutch with her nutmeg suede and snakeskin applied jacket and dusty peach dress.

TIFFANY introduces a new scarf collection for Spring. Composed of silk twill, the collection features six different

horn, amber and marbled ivory. At **NINE WEST** there are multicolored strappy sandals in snake and crocodile textures, and bold Dalmatian patterned thong slides on block heels. City sandals also stand out at **BENETTON**. The best have low block heels and crisscross leather straps in sunny yellow. Equally smart are the navy sandals with a tortoise side buckle. Tortoise also reappears on a double handled white pigskin tote.

LAURA ASHLEY never strays far from her ladylike roots, but the collection this season, particularly the accessories, has more punch. Square-toed shoes



BENETTON

designs reinterpreted from late 19th century watercolor renderings by Tiffany artists. **JOAN & DAVID** footwear is bold and graphic, with square or rounded toes and low to mid heels. There's an emphasis on sandals and slides in tortoise or amber finished calfskin, as well as antiqued ivory. This faux finish also appears in a range of pale suede belts with buckles of

come in iridescent pale mock lizard, pistachio and lilac; while white leather slingbacks and taupe leather lace-ups look stunning with Ashley's semi-iridescent, tailored linen blend separates and floral printed dresses in bias silk georgette.

In a completely different mood, Oldham hitches his designs to a gypsy caravan with a long floral printed full skirt and matching bolero, as well as his full burgundy skirt with gold halter. A stunning long, layered fit 'n' flare short sleeve shirtdress comprises a patchwork print in sumptuous ice cream colors. Sexy and sizzling describes his form-fitting dress, done in a surprising panel combination of fuchsia beading and mustard jersey. Black-on-black teams with white in a grouping that includes a long black panel skirt that divides to reveal plenty of leg. It's topped by a midriff revealing white bandeau. Other entrance-makers include the bustier column gown with deep back-slit, featured in a cream and red poppy print; and a similar silhouette rendered in a tri-color combination of fuchsia, purple, and burgundy.

It's a garden of delights from **ZANG TOI**, who provides some of the prettiest, and most feminine gowns. His "Westbury Garden" group features mouthwatering hues such as Rococo pink, yellow, and French blue in solids and a delightful floral print. These colors saturate silk chiffon and satin, cashmere, cashmere/silk/wool blends and silk crepe. His silk chiffon floral print caftan, inspired by Liz Taylor, floats tantalizingly over a matching bra and hipster pants. Indeed, many of the designs have an undoubtedly movie star aura to them: the short yellow empire knit dress with wide scoop neck



comes complete with a dramatic ankle-grazing matching chiffon overlay, and an Out of India floral print chiffon tunic, slips fluidly over matching palazzo.

In his "Ritz" group, ivory, brown, French blue, pink, and white are juxtaposed with an exotic giraffe or brown alligator print. The latter looks exceptional as a silk taffeta micro trench layered over matching mini skirt and silk/cashmere/wool ribbed turtle-neck. The giraffe print looks charming and amusing interpreted in a print cotton voile bustier dress with oversized pockets, and in a double-breasted coat-dress worn over matching fitted shirt and tie.

Going into glamorous ballgowns, Zang Toi keeps the palette to a minimum, but doesn't stint on the dramatic details. Such is the case with the long low-slung black satin gown, with a skirt embellished with "V" beading at the waist and a matching sequined short sleeve, midriff exposing crop top. Exposure is also at the forefront of an ivory cashmere and silk blend slim sweater with its deep 'V' dip at the front, that teams with a long black, highwaisted and sequined skirt. Black blossoms garnish a pretty ivory silk satin strapless draped gown and the ivory silk duchesse satin strapless mini dress, which is appliqued with crisscross black satin ribbons; an overskirt completes the glamour, in pleated black tulle, also accented with beaded black blossoms.

VIVIENNE TAM takes us for
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INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

'97 MARKET DATES



SUMMER/TRANSITION

JAN. 6-17	NEW YORK
JAN. 10-13	MIAMI
JAN. 10-14	LOS ANGELES
JAN. 16-20	DALLAS
JAN. 24-28	CHICAGO
JAN. 30-FEB. 3	ATLANTA



RESORT

JULY 28-AUG. 8	NEW YORK
AUG. 8-11	MIAMI
AUG. 8-12	LOS ANGELES
AUG. 14-18	DALLAS
AUG. 21-25	ATLANTA
AUG. 22-26	CHICAGO



FALL I

FEB. 17-28	NEW YORK
MARCH 13-17	DALLAS
MARCH 22-24	MIAMI
APRIL 4-8	LOS ANGELES
APRIL 10-14	ATLANTA
APRIL 11-15	CHICAGO



FALL II

MARCH 31-APRIL 18	NEW YORK
MAY 30-JUNE 2	CHICAGO
MAY 31-JUNE 2	MIAMI
JUNE 5-9	DALLAS
JUNE 12-16	ATLANTA
JUNE 20-24	LOS ANGELES

SPRING

OCT. 16-20	DALLAS
OCT. 17-20	MIAMI
OCT. 23-27	ATLANTA
OCT. 24-28	CHICAGO
OCT. 31-NOV. 4	LOS ANGELES
OCT. 20-NOV. 14	NEW YORK

*THE HOLIDAY MARKET IS OFTEN COMBINED WITH THE FALL II OR RESORT MARKET.
HOWEVER, NEW YORK HAS A SEPARATE HOLIDAY MARKET, JUNE 2-13

a tour of the Orient, with Suzie Wong or Cheong Sam dresses, rich brocades, and bamboo prints. Even the face of Buddha becomes a whimsical embellishment on just one of Tam's long, embroidered Cheong Sam dresses; while a white eyelet gown features the season's popular fishtail hem. Embroidery plays a role on nude embroidered pants that team with a snakeskin mandarin shell, and lace enhances the sexiness of the long, slinky, black dress with keyhole neckline. Her tortoiseshell print is timely and fresh, translated into a calf-length scoop neck dress or a long sparkling cross-back slip dress.

Tam's gold "Buddha" dress is asymmetrical, at both the hemline and the neckline, where a bare shoulder vies for attention with the opposing long sleeve. And looking ultra feminine is the ruffled brown pointelle sweater that tops a matching slip skirt. Other great looks include the sheer dahlia printed wrap dress, the blue brocade jacket over pink chiffon slip dress, and the pale blue embroidered Cheong Sam.

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blends. One-shoulder tops are twisted at the shoulder with the "twist" flowing down the back; while micro-beaded evening dresses have dramatic trains or gathering that often resembles a bustle.

OSCAR DE LA RENTA also incorporates many of the season's asymmetric influences. Printed chiffon dresses, in red, rust or green, display ruffles and fishtails; while bright jersey wrap dresses, in orange or navy, have halter necklines and asymmetric hems.

Eveningwear is particularly sexy for Spring '97 and has a bold and dramatic flair. **DONALD DEAL**

NICOLE MILLER brings the swinging '70s smack bang into the '90s with her signature computer generated prints in a multitude of colors — yellow, blue, celadon, white, khaki, maize, ivory, black, rust, green, and pink. She also takes a walk on the exotic side with tortoise shell and bamboo prints. Fabrics run the gamut from polyamide, lace, construction paper nylon, viscose/Lycra blends and liquid nylon to crepe, stretch twill, double knit, stretch silk, georgette, pointelle, beading and the season's favorite — matte jersey.

Palazzos flow dramatically beneath a rust liquid nylon short sleeve, while a black stretch georgette long dress also exemplifies fluidity with its black lace edging and sweetheart neckline. Multicolored chevron stripes and diamond patterning enhance two dazzling dresses — one a halter and the other a rainbow plaid shirt dress. Vibrant colors shimmer throughout — in the yellow stretch taffeta knee length trench coat and matching bustier; the pink stretch elongated T-shirt dress; and the blue, green and

presents a bevy of beautiful gowns with the emphasis on the midriff. Textural interest is created in the juxtaposing of pale-colored, soft silk faille dresses, in pink, blue, violet, and citrine, with a topaz three-buckle leather corset belt. Other silhouettes include the coral beaded bodice gown with nude chiffon midriff and draped skirt.

At **ALEXANDRA LIND**, evening dresses come in a spectrum of wonderful silhouettes. Most inspired is the gold speckled sheer empire style gown with puffed sleeves and voluminous Watteau back. Another lovely creation, a black sheer dotted evening dress with Venetian lace bodice, has a dropped waist and curved seam detail.

white origami print coat and skirt, in viscose/Lycra, teamed with navy printed nylon bustier

Evenings are down right dramatic, although less colorful: A black stretch satin Tuxedo dress, with contrast cuffs and collar is a case in point. It comes complete with sexy and revealing thigh high slit. Tortoiseshell wins the race ahead of the hare with a highly wearable sleeveless and short empire dress, and in a beaded version as a shell trench, that tops a green liquid nylon dress. The beaded tortoiseshell is bound to be a winner, especially when combined with white matte jersey, as a shirt and long skirt, or a long, short sleeved and shimmering evening gown.

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FASHION INTERNATIONAL



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MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE FILLED WITH JOY
AND GOOD WILL
AND MAY THE NEW YEAR
BRING PEACE
TO US ALL

A HEARTFELT WISH
FROM THE ENTIRE STAFF OF
FASHION INTERNATIONAL

